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a computer usable medium;  
first instructions for receiving a data value stream for a data object;  
second instructions for sending a query for a meta definition of a data object;  
third instructions for receiving the meta definition of the data object; and  
fourth instructions for processing the data object according to attributes in the  
meta definition for the data object to form a second data value stream.

47. The system of claim 46, further comprising fifth instruction means for transferring  
the second data value stream to a Persistent Object Service.--

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### **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-14, 16, 18-20, 22, and 24-47 are pending in the present  
application. Claims 3, 8-9, 15, 17, 21, and 23 are canceled; claims 1, 6, 7, 10-13, 16, 19,  
and 22 are amended; and claims 25-47 are added. Reconsideration of the claims is  
respectfully requested.

Applicants have submitted formal drawings on 16 March 1999. The drawings  
were received in the Office on 22 March 1999; however, they are not acknowledged in  
the Office Action.

#### **I. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated  
by Lippman et al., hereinafter referred to as "*Lippman*." This rejection is respectfully  
traversed.

Applicant's claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. A method in a software component for processing a data object in a  
data processing system, said method comprising the  
computer-implemented steps of:
  - sending a query for a meta definition of a data object;
  - receiving the meta definition for the data object;
  - identifying object attributes in the meta definition; and
  - prompting a user to input data values corresponding to the object  
attributes.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a client computer accepts user input to be stored as data values for attributes of an object that will be eventually be stored in a relational database management system (RDBMS). The client requests a meta definition of the data object from a Meta Data Service. In response, the Meta Data Service provides the meta definition to the client. Then, the client matches object attributes from the meta definition for the object with GUI fields for presentation to the user. These features are supported by the specification at least on page 11, lines 1-16.

In contradistinction, *Lippman* teaches a Media Bank. Clients access the Media Bank through the object meta-data interface module. The meta-data interface module takes the request and extracts and queries the meta-data database on the client's behalf. The interface removes the network unique identifiers of objects on object servers that failed to check in with the directory server. See *Lippman*, page 8, lines 4-8. However, *Lippman* does not teach or fairly suggest "identifying object attributes in the meta definition" and "prompting a user to input data values corresponding to the object attributes," as recited in amended claim 1.

Since claims 2, 4-6, and 25-26 depend from claim 1, the same distinctions between *Lippman* and the claimed invention in claim 1 apply for these claims. Additionally, claims 2, 4-6, and 25-26 claim other additional combinations of features not suggested by the reference. Consequently, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of claims 1, 2-6, and 25-27 is overcome.

Particularly, claim 25 recites:

25. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving inputted data values corresponding to the object attributes from the user; and  
sending a data value stream including the inputted data values to a server.

*Lippman* does not teach or fairly suggest receiving inputted data values corresponding to the object attributes and sending a data value stream including the inputted data values to a server, because *Lippman* only receives objects from a Media Bank. *Lippman* does not teach or suggest receiving a meta definition for subsequent data entry.

Claims 13, 14, 19, 20, 30, and 31 are allowable for the reasons stated above with respect to claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 25-27. Consequently, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of claims 13, 14, 19, 20, 30, and 31 is overcome.

Applicant's claim 7, as amended, recites:

7. A method in a software component for processing a data object in a data processing system, said method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

- receiving a data value stream;
- sending a query for a meta definition of a data object;
- receiving a meta definition of the data object; and
- mapping data values to a data structure according to attributes in the meta definition of the data object.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a Persistent Object Service (POS) accepts a stream of data values for object attributes that are eventually stored in a RDBMS. The POS receives data values from a server, requests a meta definition for the data object from a Meta Data Service, and maps the data values to object attributes according to the meta definition. These features are supported by the specification at least on page 12, line 27, to page 13, line 16.

In contradistinction, *Lippman* teaches a Media Bank in which media objects are separated into two parts. The first part consists of meta-data about the object. The meta-data contains attributes and associated values, which describe the length of a clip, resolution, compression format, and other information needed for indexing and retrieval. The second part is the actual video data. The meta-data is not a definition for the object, which provides the attributes of the objects, but is a lightweight portion of the information in the object including actual data describing characteristics of other portion. See *Lippman*, page 4, lines 25-30. Therefore, *Lippman* does not teach or fairly suggest the step of "mapping data values to a data structure according to attributes in the meta definition of the data object," as recited in amended claim 7.

Since claims 10-12 and 27-29 depend from claim 7, the same distinctions between *Lippman* and the claimed invention in claim 7 apply for these claims. Additionally, claims 10-12 and 27-29 claim other additional combinations of features not suggested by the reference. Consequently, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of claims 7, 10-12,

and 27-29 is overcome.

Particularly, claims 27-29 recite:

27. The method of claim 7, further comprising transferring the data values to the data structure.

28. The method of claim 7, wherein the data structure is a database.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the database is a relational database.

*Lippman* does not teach or fairly suggest transferring the data values to a data structure, particularly a relational database, because *Lippman* concerns only the retrieval of media objects from a Media Bank. *Lippman* does not teach or suggest receiving a stream of data values to be mapped to object attributes from a meta definition.

Claims 16, 18, 22, 24, and 32-34 are allowable for the reasons stated above with respect to claims 7, 10-12, and 27-29. Consequently, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of claims 16, 18, 22, 24, and 32-34 is overcome.

Applicant's claim 35 recites:

35. A method in a software component for processing a data object in a data processing system, said method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

- receiving a first data value stream for a data object;
- sending a query for a meta definition of the data object;
- receiving a meta definition of the data object; and
- processing the data object according to attributes in the meta definition of the data object to form a second data value stream for the data object.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a server receives a data value stream from a client for a data object, requests a meta definition for the data object, and processes the data object according to attributes in the meta definition to form a second data value stream for subsequent transmission to a Persistent Object Storage or another server for further processing. These features are supported by the specification at least on page 12, lines 5-26.

In contradistinction, *Lippman* teaches a directory server and an object server which serve the media object data. The servers of *Lippman* respond to requests from

clients to provide the media objects. The clients of *Lippman* receive the media objects for presentation. *Lippman* does not teach or suggest “processing the data object according to attributes in the meta definition of the data object to form a second data value stream for the data object,” as recited in claim 35, because *Lippman* does not produce a second data value stream.

Since claims 36-41 depend from claim 35, the same distinctions between *Lippman* and the claimed invention in claim 35 apply for these claims. Additionally, claims 36-41 claim other additional combinations of features not suggested by the reference.

Consequently, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of claims 35-41 is overcome.

Particularly, claim 36 recites:

36. The method of claim 35, further comprising transferring the second data value stream to a Persistent Object Service.

*Lippman* does not teach or fairly suggest transferring the second data value stream to a Persistent Object Service, because *Lippman* does not teach a second data value stream.

Further claims 38 and 39 recite:

38. The method of claim 35, wherein the software component is in a first server.

39. The method of claim 38, further comprising transferring the second data value stream to a second server.

*Lippman* does not teach or fairly suggest processing the data object at a first server to form a second data value stream for transmission to a second server.

Claims 42-47 are allowable for the reasons stated above with respect to claims 35-41. Consequently, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of claims 42-47 is overcome.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-14, 16, 18-20, 22, 24, and 25-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is overcome.

Furthermore, *Lippman* does not teach, suggest, or give any incentive to make the needed changes to reach the presently claimed invention. *Lippman* actually teaches away from the presently claimed invention because it teaches separating media objects into meta-data including actual data values and video data, as opposed to a meta definition

defining data object attributes, which correspond to the data values, as in the presently claimed invention. Absent, the examiner pointing out some teaching or inventive to implement *Lippman* with meta definitions, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be led to modify *Lippman* to reach the present invention when the reference is examined as a whole. Absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive to modify *Lippman* in this manner, the presently claimed invention can be reached only through an improper use of hindsight using the applicants' disclosure as a template to make the necessary changes to reach the claimed invention.

## II. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over *Lippman* and is now in condition for allowance.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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